

SPEAKER BARRETT: The motion fails. Next order of business.

CLERK: Senator Moore and McFarland would move to amend, Mr. President. (Amendment appears on pages 2579-80 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator McFarland, will you handle it, please?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The call is raised.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Fellow members, this amendment is a very simple one. It is an amendment we should have considered when we started out this debate. It is an amendment that would eliminate the state aid to zero. It's a novel amendment. It is probably the only one that Senator Moore and I will co-sponsor all year, but I think the session is getting on and what he is saying is starting to make sense to me so something may be wrong. There is still a chance to submit a balanced budget to the Governor. I think that that is an obligation that we have as a Legislature, to try to submit, as close as we can, a balanced budget and not to just continue to add on spending items to the bills that we are passing here. I know that some people have said it isn't fair to put the Governor's Office in a bind by passing all this legislation and then making her appear as the bad person for having to issue the vetoes, particularly on this issue because it puts the Governor's Office, I think, in the position of having to weigh the teachers' salary increase against state aid and I don't think there is any way around that. Now I'm troubled by that. I think that realistically in another year I would vote for state aid. There are very strong arguments that can be made in support of state aid. It has been cut for a number of years, but I look at the process that has occurred this year and I don't think the process is fair. The teachers' salary bill has been debated, has been lobbied, has been discussed for the entire session and then this past week we suddenly get the state aid amendment up and it's approved like that and all of a sudden it's in the budget. I don't think that's the appropriate way to do things. Certainly next year we may be able to do that, we may be able to take a look at state aid. I know the proponents of this proposal have said that we need to refill, as the slogan that is being used. I would suggest that they adopt another slogan, that being, reload. Forget this year, accept the fact